AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for preventing a user from automatically advancing an audio/video signal past marked material comprising the steps of:

   (A)   detecting possible triggering events during encoding

5   of said audio/video signal;

   (B)   generating one or more scores of various levels in response to said triggering events;

   (C) . marking a portion of said audio/video signal in response to said one or more scores; and

10   (D)   preventing said user from advancing past said marked material during playback in response to said one or more scores.

2.   (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (A) comprises detecting synchronized audio and video statistics from both an audio portion and a video portion of said audio/video signal.

3.   (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein said method further comprises the step of:

   adapting one or more thresholds and detection criteria used to generate said one or more scores.

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4.   (CANCEL)

5.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

skipping an undesirable material during said playback in response to one of said scores; and

inserting alternate material in place of said undesirable material advanced past ~~in step (C)~~.

6.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 5, wherein ~~step (C)~~ said advancing past said undesirable material is selectively enabled ~~or~~ and disabled in response to a user input.

7.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein one of said one or more scores is used to generate a playlist used to determine a particular portion of the marked material to skip.

8.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (A) further comprises recording said ~~encoded~~ audio/video signal in an encoded form.

9.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (A) includes said triggering events occurring at ~~the~~

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a beginning of said marked material and at ~~the~~ <u>an</u> end of said marked material.

10.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said marked material comprises advertisements.

11.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein step (C) replaces~~ <u>further comprising the step of:</u>
<u>replacing</u> said marked material with alternate material.

12.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein a particular one of said scores is used to determine how aggressive said method determines whether <u>said triggering events</u> <u>are</u> ~~a triggering event is~~ detected.

13.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:
a detector circuit configured to generate (i) an audio/video data signal and (ii) one or more score signals of various levels in response to an input signal; and
5   a data storage device configured to (i) store said audio/video data signal and said one or more score signals and (ii) generate an output signal in response to (a) said stored audio/video <u>data</u> signal and (b) one of said score signals, wherein

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said apparatus is configured to prevent a user from skipping a
10   marked portion of said ~~stored~~ audio/video <u>data</u> signal.

14.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said apparatus is integrated into an audio/video playback system.

15.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said data storage device generates said output signal in further response to a user input.

16.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said data storage device comprises a random access storage device.

17.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said data storage device comprises a hard disk drive.

18.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said data storage device comprises an optical disk drive.

19.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said detector circuit comprises an audio processor and

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a video processor each configured to detect a plurality of triggering events used to generate said scores.

20.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said apparatus further comprises an analyzer circuit configured to generate said scores in response to said triggering events.

21.   (CANCEL)

22.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a detector circuit configured to generate (i) an audio/video data signal and (ii) one or more a plurality of score signals of various levels in response to an input signal; and

5   a data storage device configured to (i) store said audio/video data signal and (ii) generate an output signal in response to (a) said stored audio/video data signal and (b) one of said score signals, wherein (i) said output signal skips portions comprises a skipped portion of said audio/video data signal in

10   response to (a) one of said score signals and (b) a user input configured to initiate a start of said skipped portion.

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